

LISTING OF CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-19 (Cancelled).

20. (Currently Amended) A drive mechanism for a power tool, the power tool including a motor including a drive shaft and an output member adapted to support a tool element, the drive mechanism comprising:

a gear driven by the drive shaft for rotation about an axis;

a hub selectively driven by the gear for rotation about the axis, the hub being movable relative to the gear, the hub including a drive member offset from the axis and connected to the output member to drivingly connect the hub to the output member;

a drive arm connecting the drive member to the output member to convert rotation of the hub to reciprocation of the output member, the drive arm being pivotably connected to the drive member and being pivotably connected to the output member; and

structure positioned between the gear and the hub, the structure selectively transmitting drive force from the gear to the hub and selectively allowing relative movement between the gear and the hub;

wherein the gear defines a pocket and includes a gear protrusion in the pocket, and wherein a portion of the hub is supported in the pocket and includes a hub protrusion, the gear protrusion drivingly engaging the hub protrusion;

wherein the structure includes an elastic member positioned between the gear protrusion and the hub protrusion.

21. (Original) The drive mechanism as set forth in Claim 20, wherein the drive shaft supports a pinion, and wherein the gear has an outer periphery defining teeth, the teeth being engaged with and driven by the pinion to rotate the gear about the axis.

22. (Original) The drive mechanism as set forth in Claim 20, wherein the hub is rotatable about the axis relative to the gear.

Claims 23-24 (Cancelled).

25. (Currently Amended) The drive mechanism as set forth in Claim 20 Claim 24, wherein at least a portion of the elastic member is positioned between radially overlapping portions of the gear protrusion and the hub protrusion.

26. (Currently Amended) The drive mechanism as set forth in Claim 20 Claim 25, wherein the gear protrusion includes a first side and a second side, wherein the hub protrusion includes a first side and a second side, and wherein the elastic member includes a first elastic member protrusion positioned between the gear protrusion first side and the hub protrusion first side and a second elastic member protrusion positioned between the gear protrusion second side and the hub protrusion second side.

27. (Currently Amended) The drive mechanism as set forth in Claim 20 Claim 24, wherein the gear includes a plurality of gear protrusions, and wherein the hub includes a plurality of hub protrusions.

28. (Original) The drive mechanism as set forth in Claim 27, wherein the elastic member includes a plurality of elastic member protrusions, each one of the plurality of elastic member protrusions being positioned between an adjacent one of the plurality of gear protrusions and of the plurality of hub protrusions.

29. (Original) The drive mechanism as set forth in Claim 28, wherein the elastic member includes a body, and wherein the plurality of elastic member protrusions are connected to the body.

30. (Original) The drive mechanism as set forth in Claim 28, wherein the gear includes four gear protrusions, wherein the hub includes four hub protrusions, and wherein the elastic member includes eight elastic member protrusions.

31. (Currently Amended) The drive mechanism as set forth in Claim 20 ~~Claim 23~~, wherein the elastic member is formed of rubber.

32. (Currently Amended) The drive mechanism as set forth in Claim 20 ~~Claim 23~~, wherein the elastic member is formed of an elastomeric material.

33. (Original) The drive mechanism as set forth in Claim 20, wherein the power tool is a reciprocating saw, wherein the output member is a reciprocatable spindle, wherein the tool element is a saw blade operable to cut a workpiece, and wherein the structure absorbs impact resulting from a blade lock-up.

Claims 34-35 (Cancelled).

36. (Currently Amended) A power tool comprising:

- a housing;
- a motor supported by the housing and having a drive shaft;
- an output member supported by the housing and adapted to support a tool element; and

a drive mechanism supported by the housing and operable to drive the output member, the drive mechanism including

a gear driven by the drive shaft for rotation about an axis and including a protrusion,

a hub selectively driven by the gear for rotation about the axis, the hub being movable relative to the gear and including a hub protrusion and a drive member offset from the axis, the gear protrusion drivingly engaging the hub protrusion,

a drive arm pivotably connected to the drive member and the output member and being operable to convert rotation of the hub to reciprocation of the output member, and

structure positioned between the gear protrusion and the hub protrusion, the structure selectively transmitting drive force from the gear to the hub and selectively allowing relative movement between the gear and the hub; hub.

wherein at least a portion of the structure is positioned between radially overlapping portions of the gear protrusion and the hub protrusion.

37. (Original) The power tool as set forth in Claim 36, wherein the structure includes an elastic member.

Claim 38 (Cancelled).

39. (Currently Amended) A reciprocating saw comprising:
a housing;
a motor supported by the housing and having a drive shaft;
a spindle supported by the housing and adapted to support a saw blade; and
a drive mechanism supported by the housing and operable to drive the spindle, the
drive mechanism including

 a gear driven by the drive shaft for rotation about an axis,
 a hub selectively driven by the gear for rotation about the axis, the hub
 being movable relative to the gear and including a drive member offset from the axis and
 connected to the output member to drivingly connect the hub to the output member,

 a drive arm having a first end and a second end and being operable to
 convert rotation of the hub to reciprocation of the output member, the first end being
 connected to the drive member for pivoting movement relative to the hub and the second
 end being pivotably connected to the output member, and

 structure to absorb impact positioned between the gear and the hub, the
 structure selectively transmitting drive force from the gear to the hub and allowing
 relative movement between the gear and the hub to absorb an impact on the spindle;

spindle.

wherein the gear protrusion includes a first side, wherein the hub
protrusion includes a first side, and wherein at least a portion of the structure is
positioned between the gear protrusion first side and the hub protrusion first side.

40. (Original) The reciprocating saw as set forth in Claim 39, wherein the structure is
an elastic member.

41. (Currently Amended) A reciprocating saw comprising:

- a housing;
- a motor supported by the housing and having a drive shaft;
- a spindle supported by the housing and adapted to support a saw blade; and
- a drive mechanism supported by the housing and operable to drive the spindle, the drive mechanism including
 - a gear driven by the drive shaft for rotation about an axis,
 - a hub selectively driven by the gear for rotation about the axis, the hub being movable relative to the gear and including a drive member offset from the axis,
 - a drive arm pivotably connected to the drive member and the spindle to convert rotation of the hub to reciprocation of the spindle, and
 - structure to absorb impact positioned between the gear and the hub, the structure selectively transmitting drive force from the gear to the hub and allowing relative movement between the gear and the hub to absorb an impact on the spindle;
 - wherein the gear defines a pocket and includes a gear protrusion in the pocket, wherein a portion of the hub is supported in the pocket and includes a hub protrusion, the gear protrusion drivingly engaging the hub protrusion, and wherein at least a portion of the structure is positioned between radially overlapping portions of the gear protrusion and the hub protrusion.

Claims 42-43 (Cancelled).

44. (Previously Presented) The power tool as set forth in Claim 36, wherein the gear defines a pocket, wherein the gear protrusion is positioned in the pocket, and wherein a portion of the hub is supported in the pocket, the gear protrusion drivingly engaging the hub protrusion.

45. (Previously Presented) The power tool as set forth in Claim 37, wherein the gear includes a plurality of gear protrusions, and wherein the hub includes a plurality of hub protrusions.

46. (Previously Presented) The power tool as set forth in Claim 37, wherein the elastic member is formed of rubber.

47. (Previously Presented) The power tool as set forth in Claim 37, wherein the elastic member is formed of an elastomeric material.

48. (Currently Amended) The power tool as set forth in Claim 37, wherein the gear protrusion includes a first side and a second side, wherein the hub protrusion includes a first side and a second side, and wherein the elastic member includes a first elastic member protrusion positioned between the gear protrusion first side and the hub protrusion first side and a second elastic member protrusion positioned between the gear protrusion second side and the hub protrusion second side.

49. (Previously Presented) The power tool as set forth in Claim 45, wherein the elastic member includes a plurality of elastic member protrusions, each one of the plurality of elastic member protrusions being positioned between an adjacent one of the plurality of gear protrusions and of the plurality of hub protrusions.

50. (Previously Presented) The power tool as set forth in Claim 49, wherein the elastic member includes a body, and wherein the plurality of elastic member protrusions are connected to the body.

51. (Previously Presented) The power tool as set forth in Claim 50, wherein the gear includes four gear protrusions, wherein the hub includes four hub protrusions, and wherein the elastic member includes eight elastic member protrusions.

52. (Previously Presented) The power tool as set forth in Claim 36, wherein the power tool is a reciprocating saw, wherein the output member is a reciprocatable spindle, wherein the tool element is a saw blade operable to cut a workpiece, and wherein the structure absorbs impact resulting from a blade lock-up.

53. (Previously Presented) The reciprocating saw as set forth in Claim 39, wherein the gear includes a plurality of gear protrusions, and wherein the hub includes a plurality of hub protrusions.

54. (Previously Presented) The reciprocating saw as set forth in Claim 40, wherein the gear includes a gear protrusion, wherein the hub includes a hub protrusion, and wherein at least a portion of the elastic member is positioned between the gear protrusion and the hub protrusion.

55. (Previously Presented) The reciprocating saw as set forth in Claim 54, wherein the gear includes a plurality of gear protrusions, wherein the elastic member includes a plurality of protrusions, and wherein the elastic member includes a plurality of elastic member protrusions, each one of the plurality of elastic member protrusions being positioned between an adjacent one of the plurality of gear protrusions and of the plurality of hub protrusions.

56. (Previously Presented) The reciprocating saw as set forth in Claim 54, wherein the gear protrusion includes a first side and a second side, wherein the hub protrusion includes a first side and a second side, and wherein the elastic member includes a first elastic member protrusion positioned between the gear protrusion first side and the hub protrusion first side and a second elastic member protrusion positioned between the gear protrusion second side and the hub protrusion second side.

57. (Previously Presented) The reciprocating saw as set forth in Claim 40, wherein the elastic member includes a plurality of protrusions, wherein the elastic member includes a body, and wherein the plurality of elastic member protrusions are connected to the body.

58. (Previously Presented) The reciprocating saw as set forth in Claim 40, wherein the gear includes four gear protrusions, wherein the hub includes four hub protrusions, and wherein the elastic member includes eight elastic member protrusions.

Claim 59 (Cancelled).

60. (Previously Presented) The reciprocating saw as set forth in Claim 39, wherein the gear defines a pocket and includes a gear protrusion in the pocket, and wherein a portion of the hub is supported in the pocket and includes a hub protrusion, the gear protrusion drivingly engaging the hub protrusion.

61. (Previously Presented) The reciprocating saw as set forth in Claim 41, wherein the structure includes an elastic member.

62. (Previously Presented) The reciprocating saw as set forth in Claim 61, wherein the gear protrusion includes a first side and a second side, wherein the hub protrusion includes a first side and a second side, and wherein the elastic member includes a first elastic member protrusion positioned between the gear protrusion first side and the hub protrusion first side and a second elastic member protrusion positioned between the gear protrusion second side and the hub protrusion second side.

63. (Previously Presented) The reciprocating saw as set forth in Claim 61, wherein the gear includes a plurality of gear protrusions, wherein the elastic member includes a plurality of protrusions, and wherein the elastic member includes a plurality of elastic member protrusions, each one of the plurality of elastic member protrusions being positioned between an adjacent one of the plurality of gear protrusions and of the plurality of hub protrusions.

64. (Previously Presented) The reciprocating saw as set forth in Claim 61, wherein the elastic member includes a body, and wherein the plurality of elastic member protrusions are connected to the body.

65. (Previously Presented) The reciprocating saw as set forth in Claim 61, wherein the gear includes four gear protrusions, wherein the hub includes four hub protrusions, and wherein the elastic member includes eight elastic member protrusions.

66. (Previously Presented) The reciprocating saw as set forth in Claim 41, wherein the gear includes a plurality of gear protrusions, and wherein the hub includes a plurality of hub protrusions.

67. (Previously Presented) The reciprocating saw as set forth in Claim 41, the drive mechanism further comprising a drive arm connecting the drive member to the spindle to convert rotation of the hub to reciprocation of the spindle.